

May 12, 2019
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
Accelerate—Beyond The Starting Blocks Of Faith: Episode 7
Worship: A Journey Into Reality - Part 2
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Revelation 4:1-11

“After this” I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven (JOHN 10). And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a **trumpet (ISA 58)** said, **“Come up here,** and I will show you what must take place after this.”² At once I was **in the Spirit,** and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it.³ And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and ruby. A **rainbow** that shone like an emerald encircled the throne.⁴ Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders. They were **dressed in white** and had crowns of gold on their heads.⁵ From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder. In front of the throne, seven lamps were blazing. These are the seven spirits of God.⁶ Also in front of the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal. In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back.⁷ The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle.⁸ Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under its wings. Day and night they never stop saying: **“‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,’** who was, and is, and is to come.”⁹ Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives forever and ever,¹⁰ the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say:¹¹ “You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.”

Worship puts us in touch with truth and reality, but how?

- **Worship transports us dimensionally into a perfect a true reality.**
 - **Vs. 1** After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven.

- **Worship puts us in touch with purity.**
 - **Vs. 2-4** At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it.³ And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and ruby. A rainbow that shone like an emerald encircled the throne.⁴ Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders. **They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads.**
 - **White is a symbol of purity.**
 - **Vs. 8** “Holy, Holy, Holy”
 - Purity is a despised commodity today.

 - **Crowns are given to the ones that are pure.**

This vision of the purity of God's throne comes directly after John is told about the seven churches.

- **Question:** Is this passage meant to juxtapose the absolute holiness of God's heavenly culture vs. the tepid holiness of the early churches and is there a consequence for those who are in Christ but continue to live according to the flesh?
- **Rev 3:7-11 "To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write:** These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. ⁸I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. ⁹I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars—I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you. ¹⁰ Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth. ¹¹I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown.

Food For The Journey: Uses these questions and challenges to go deeper in personal reflection or deeper study.

1. Did you spend time in worship this week, and what if any result did it have on your week's journey.
2. Pastor Adam said that purity is scorned in our society, why do you think this is?
3. Crowns are given to the ones that are pure in vs. 4. Why would purity increase authority and power?
4. Rev 3:7-11 Seems to affirm that there is a different blessing and protection for those within the church who chose to walk in purity. Do you agree that this is what the verse is implying?
5. How could you be more committed to holiness?